



Iowa Range

northern two-thirds of Iowa

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.

grass of Parnassus

Parnassia glauca

Kingdom: Plantae
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta - flowering plants

Features

Grass of Parnassus is a perennial herb that grows up to 16 inches tall. It has rounded, fleshy leaves in a basal rosette. The leaves are up to two inches long and 1 1/4 inches wide. Flowers grow singly on stems with a small leaf about halfway up the stem. They are cream in color with green veins and are up to 1 1/2 inches wide. The fruits are capsules with small brown seeds. It is found in the northeast half of the state, where it is uncommon.

Natural History

Grass of Parnassus is found in fens, and occasionally in wet prairies. It flowers from August through early October.

Habitats

wet prairies and fens

Iowa Status

uncommon; native.